

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 197291
ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, KS, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

1. DEBRIEFING OF ROKG AFTER THE CHINA TRIP (CONF) - BOTH
IN SEOUL AND IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK THE ROKG HAS BEEN
URGING THE IMPORTANCE TO THEM OF AN AUTHORITATIVE BRIEFING
BY A MEMBER OF THE SECRETARY'S PARTY FOLLOWING THE
PEKING VISIT. THEY HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT THEY HOPE FOR A
MORE DIRECT DEBRIEFING THAN SIMPLY CONVEYING INFORMATION
THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. WE HAVE ASSURED THE ROK
EMBASSY THAT AN APPROPRIATE DEBRIEFING WILL BE HELD, BUT
THAT WE ARE NOT YET ABLE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.

2. BLUE HOUSE BUGGING DENIAL (SECRET)
FOLLOWING ADMIRAL TURNER'S DENIAL TO THE PRESS THAT ANY
AGENCY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD EVER BUGGED THE BLUE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 197291

HOUSE IN SEOUL, THE ROKG EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN BOTH
SEOUL AND HERE AT THIS UNEXPECTED PUBLIC DENIAL FOLLOWING
A LONG HISTORY OF ROKG REQUESTS FOR SUCH A STATEMENT. THE
ROK EMBASSY THEN REQUESTED THAT WE ALSO PROVIDE A WRITTEN
RESPONSE TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER PAK
HANDED TO AMBASSADOR SNEIDER IN SEOUL IN LATE JUNE.

FOLLOWING SOME CONSIDERATION OF THE PROS AND CONS, WE
DECIDED THAT, DESPITE THE SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM

PRECEDENT REPRESENTED BY ADMIRAL TURNER'S STATEMENT, IT
WOULD STILL BE A BAD PRECEDENT TO GIVE THE ROKG A
WRITTEN RESPONSE ON THIS MATTER. WE HAVE ASSURED THE
KOREANS ORALLY, HOWEVER, THAT TURNER'S STATEMENTS AS
REPORTED IN THE WASHINGTON POST WERE ACCURATE AND AUTHORI-
TATIVE.

3. KOREA QUESTION AT THE UNGA (SECRET) -

IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THIS WEEK THAT THE ROKG MAY ACT
SOMEWHAT PRECIPITOUSLY IN CONTACTING A WIDE RANGE OF
UN MEMBERS WITH TALKING POINTS REGARDING ITS ELIGIBILITY
FOR MEMBERSHIP. WHILE WE HAVE NO IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE
DIFFERENCES ON THIS SUBJECT, BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND USUN
ARE DISTINCTLY CONCERNED THAT AN EARLY AND BROAD ROKG
INITIATIVE OF THIS NATURE IS HIGHLY LIKELY TO GENERATE
NORTH KOREAN COUNTERMEASURES AND RESULT IN ANOTHER STERILE
UNGA DEBATE WHICH WOULD REDOUND TO THE DISCREDIT OF THE
ROKG. WE ARE PRIVATELY STRONGLY URGING THE ROKG TO DELAY
ITS INITIATIVE AT LEAST UNTIL THE CRITICAL DANGER OF
SPARKING A FULL GA DEBATE HAS PASSED.

4. WHERE IS PAK TONG-SON? (UNCLASSIFIED) -

THE WIRE SERVICES ARE REPORTING FROM SEOUL THAT THE
FAMOUS WORLD TRAVELER PAK TONG-SON HAS NOW RETURNED HOME
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 197291

FROM LONDON TO VISIT HIS AILING, AGED MOTHER. THE WIRES
ALSO REPORT THAT A U.S. EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED THE ROKG
WEDNESDAY FOR COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATING PAK, TO WHICH
FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-CHIN REPORTEDLY REPLIED "THERE
IS NOTHING WE CAN DO BECAUSE HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH
US".

5. NORTH KOREA'S MILITARY ZONE DEVELOPMENTS (LOU)

IN A CONTINUING SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE RECENT NORTH
KOREAN PROCLAMATION OF A WIDE MILITARY SEA ZONE, WE MET
THIS WEEK WITH AN OFFICER OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY.
SIMILARITY OF FRENCH VIEWS ON RIGHTS OF PASSAGE ON THE
HIGH SEAS WAS NOTED AND WE URGED THE USEFULNESS OF AS MANY
NATIONS AS POSSIBLE LETTING NORTH KOREA KNOW THAT ITS
PROCLAMATION WAS UNACCEPTABLE.

IN PEKING, MEANWHILE, GERMAN AND AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATS HAVE
REPORTED INDICATIONS OF PRC UNHAPPINESS WITH THE NORTH
KOREAN DECLARATION. ONE PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL
REPORTEDLY STATED THAT FRIENDLY COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE PRC
AND NORTH KOREA SHOULD CONSULT ON SUCH ISSUES.

6. NORTH KOREA DEPOSITS INSTRUMENT FOR CONVENTION ON
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION (LOU) -
THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE DEPOSITED AN INSTRUMENT OF ADHERENCE

TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION WITH
THE U.S. AS OFFICIAL REPOSITORY FOR THE CONVENTION. THE
INSTRUMENT OF ADHERENCE WAS PASSED TO OUR AMBASSADOR
IN BUCHAREST ON AUGUST 5 BY THE ROMANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER. IN ACCORDANCE WITH A POLICY OF STRICT ADHERENCE
TO OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS REPOSITORY, THE DEPARTMENT IS
SENDING A CIRCULAR NOTE TO THE OTHER MEMBER NATIONS STATING
SIMPLY THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED THE NORTH KOREAN INSTRUMENT.
TREATY AFFAIRS HAS BRIEFED THE ROK EMBASSY IN DETAIL ON
THIS. THE ROKS FOUND IT INTERESTING THAT THE NORTH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 197291

KOREANS ADDRESSED THEIR MESSAGE SPECIFICALLY TO THE
SECRETARY.

7. SEC RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS ON AMERICAN HOSPITAL SUPPLY
PAYMENTS (LOU) -
THE SEC HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT, PURSUANT TO
AN FOIA REQUEST, IT IS RELEASING ITS INVESTIGATION FILES
CONCERNING QUESTIONABLE FOREIGN PAYMENTS BY THE AMERICAN
HOSPITAL SUPPLY CO. ONE OF THE PAYMENTS MENTIONED WAS
TO A KOREAN AGENT INVOLVED IN A SALE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
TO THE SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL. SEVERAL MONTHS
AGO EA/K REVIEWED THE CASE AND DETERMINED THERE WERE NO
SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS, BUT THE RELEASE
OF THE DOCUMENTS WAS DELAYED BY THE ARGUMENT OF AMERICAN
HOSPITAL THAT RELEASE OF THE MATERIAL MIGHT PUT SOME OF
THOSE NAMED IN PHYSICAL DANGER.

8. REVEREND MOON REPORTEDLY ILL (LOU) -
EA/K RECEIVED A CALL AUGUST 18 FROM JOHN MC INTYRE OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA
INFORMING US THAT THE COALITION HAD RECEIVED A TELEGRAM
FROM SEOUL REPORTING THAT REVEREND STEVEN MOON WAS
SERIOUSLY ILL WITH A KIDNEY DISORDER AND THAT THEY HAD
SENT A TELEGRAM TO OUR EMBASSY IN SEOUL ASKING FOR
ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING PROPER MEDICAL ATTENTION. OUR
LATEST REPORTS FROM SEOUL DO NOT INDICATE THAT MOON IS
ILL. VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** ONLY, STADIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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